

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 5, indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form, without change of scope, as new claims 10 and 13 respectively, and are believed to be allowable as now presented.

Claims 3 and 4, also indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter, have been re-presented as new claims 11 and 12 respectively, for proper dependency in view of the rewriting of claim 2 in independent form.

In claims 10-13, clamping "plates" has been changed to clamping "elements" for consistency of terminology.

The rejected claims, 1 and 6-9, have been amended to clarify the significant distinctions over the prior art and are now believed to be clearly allowable.

The primary reference, Miller 2,759,574 is directed to an entirely different type of device than is defined by the amended claims. Miller is directed to a construction of a slat or vane for a Venetian blind. It is a purely static assembly. The applicant's device, on the other hand, is directed to an operable clamping mechanism for fixing the position of a slide in a desired position along a channel.

Claim 1, as now amended, calls for a slide track channel having

"spaced apart sidewalls, a bottom and an open top, and having a width at the bottom greater than a width at the top to form a restricted entrance opening".

Claim 1 further calls for a pair of clamping elements having inner end portions engageable with portions of the sidewall "spaced farther apart than at said entrance". This is, of course, specifically contrary to the Miller reference, in which the channel is widest at its opening and converges toward the bottom.

The "fulcrum element" called in applicant's claim 1 is entirely different in purpose and function than the element (tips of item 14) which the Examiner has equated to a fulcrum element. In the applicant's device, the clamping plates pivot about the fulcrum element, so that closing pressure applied to outer portions of the clamping elements cause inner portions of the clamping element to pivot into locking relation to the channel sidewalls. Nothing similar to that is intended in the Miller reference, in which the item 14 is simply a wedging clamp, and the elements 11, 12 do not, and are not intended to, pivot in any way with reference to the wedge-shaped spreader 14.

Applicant's claim 1 further calls for a means for applying closing pressure to the outer portions of the clamping elements, to forcibly urge the inner portions thereof to pivot outwardly against sidewalls of the channel to lock the mechanism

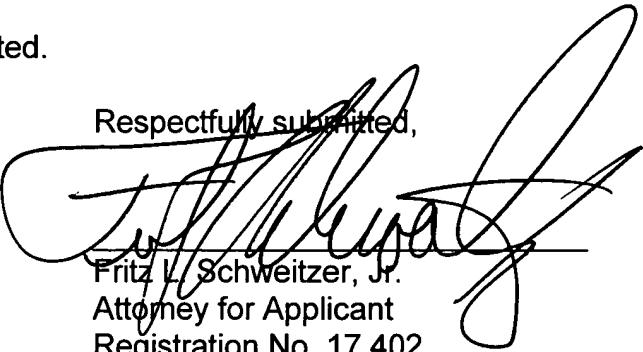
against sliding movement. There is no similar or corresponding structure or function disclosed or suggested in the Miller reference.

Claim 6 is similar to claim1, but somewhat broader in calling for "a pivot" between the upper and lower portions of the clamping plate elements. The claim calls for the slide track to have sidewalls with inner portions thereof spaced farther apart than outer portions and also calls for means to forcibly converge upper portions of the clamping plate elements, to forcibly urge the lower edges thereof outward against inner portions of the sidewalls. As in the case of claim 1, this is different in function, purpose and structure from the disclosure of the Miller reference, and it is believed that claim 6 is clearly patentable over the Miller reference.

Claims 7-9, being dependent directly or indirectly on claim 6, are believed to be allowable for the reasons expressed above.

Thus, in the absence of a discovery of more relevant prior art, it is believed that the application in the form now presented is allowable in all respects, and an early action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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June 22, 2004

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